

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A device for detecting objects, comprising:
at least one distance sensor configured to emit a transmitting signal and to receive returned transmitting signal;
at least one microcontroller configured to control each distance sensor; and
an output unit;
wherein the microcontroller is configured to apply to the transmitting signal an identifier signal that is changeable with time and to distinguish between returned transmitting signal output and other signals received by the device based on the identifier.

Claim 2. (Canceled).

3. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein the device is a parking assistance device for a motor vehicle.

4. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 2, wherein the change of the identifier signal with time is generated in accordance with a random function.

5. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 2, wherein the change of the identifier signal with time is generated in accordance with a random number generator.

6. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the microcontroller is configured to control the distance sensors individually in accordance with variable identifier signals.

7. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the microcontroller is configured to control the distance sensors in groups in accordance with variable identifier signals.

8. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein each distance sensor includes an ultrasonic transducer.

9. (Currently Amended) A device for detecting objects, comprising:
at least one distance sensor configured to emit a transmitting signal and to receive returned transmitting signal;
at least one microcontroller configured to control each distance sensor; and
an output unit;
wherein the microcontroller is configured to apply to the transmitting signal an identifier that is changeable with time and to distinguish between returned transmitting signal output and other signals received by the device based on the identifier; and
wherein each distance sensor includes an ultrasonic foil transducer.

10. (Original) The device according to claim 9, wherein the ultrasonic foil transducer includes an ultrasonic foil sandwich transducer.

11. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein the microcontroller is configured to interrupt emission of the transmission signal from the distance sensor for a predetermined amount of time when the other signals are received by the same distance sensor.

12. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the identifier signal includes a modulation of the transmitting signal.

13. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 12, wherein the modulation includes at least one of an amplitude modulation, a frequency modulation, a phase modulation, a pulse-length modulation and a mark-space modulation.

14. (Previously Presented) A device for detecting objects, comprising:
a plurality of distance sensors;
at least one microcontroller configured to control each of the distance sensors; and
an output unit;
wherein the microcontroller is configured to apply to the distance sensors an identifier signal that is changeable with time.

15. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 14, wherein the device is a parking assistance device for a motor vehicle.

16. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 14, wherein the change of the identifier signal with time is generated in accordance with a random function.

17. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 14, wherein the change of the identifier signal with time is generated in accordance with a random number generator.

18. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 14, wherein the microcontroller is configured to control the distance sensors individually in accordance with variable identifier signals.

19. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 14, wherein the microcontroller is configured to control the distance sensors in groups in accordance with variable identifier signals.

20. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 14, wherein each distance sensor includes an ultrasonic transducer.

21. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 14, wherein each distance sensor includes an ultrasonic foil transducer.

22. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 21, wherein the ultrasonic foil transducer includes an ultrasonic foil-sandwich transducer.

23. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 14, wherein the microcontroller is configured to distinguish between returned transmitting signal output and other signals received by the device based on the identifier signal.

24. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 14, wherein the identifier signal is changeable as a function of time.

25. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 14, wherein the identifier signal includes a modulation of the transmitting signal.

26. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 25, wherein the modulation includes at least one of an amplitude modulation, a frequency modulation, a phase modulation, a pulse-length modulation and a mark-space modulation.